

REMARKS

By this Amendment claims 1, 2 and 6-10 have been amended to better define the invention. Entry is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action the examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 8, 9, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rekow, he has rejected claims 6, 7, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekow in view of Schroeder, and he has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rekow in view of Rathke. These rejections are incorrect.

Rekow discloses a method and apparatus for modeling a dental prosthesis or restoration which includes in one aspect:

(a) selecting a stored standard tooth form for the selected tooth from a library of standard tooth forms, a corresponding digital mapping being stored for each of said tooth forms,

(b) determining the ratio of the buccal/lingual spacing between selected cusps for the standard tooth form stored for the selected tooth to the buccal/lingual spacing for said selected cusps measured for a given tooth of the patient other than said selected tooth;

(c) utilizing said ratio to scale the stored standard tooth form in the buccal/lingual dimension;

(d) determining the mesial/distal ratio of a measured spacing between contact points for the mesial and distal proximal teeth with the

selected tooth to the mesial/distal dimension of the stored standard tooth form;

(e) utilizing the determined mesial/distal ratio to scale the selected standard tooth form in the mesial/distal dimensions;

(f) aligning the selected standard tooth form in at least two dimensions with at least one proximal tooth and the occluding tooth for said selected tooth; and

(g) adjusting selected portions of the stored standard tooth form to match mating portions of said occluding tooth.

Rekow does not disclose a step of automatically separating a superstructure into first and second elements which are fabricated as defined in applicants' claim 1.

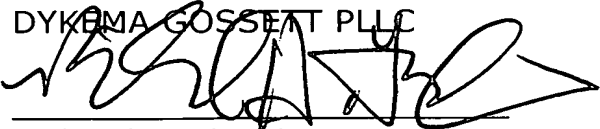
Neither Schroeder nor Rathke would suggest such a step.

As such, the examiner's rejections should be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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